United Nations A/CN.10/PV.215

General Assembly

Official Records

Disarmament Commission

215th Meeting
Monday, 28 April 1997, 10 a.m.
New York

Chairman: Mr. Garcia . . . . . (Colombia)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Programme of work

The Chairman (*interpretation from Spanish*): The working timetable for the period 28 April to 2 May has been circulated in informal paper 2. This timetable, as was the case with informal paper 1, was prepared after consultations with the Chairmen of the Working Groups, and was approved by the Bureau at its last meeting, held on the morning of Friday, 25 April.

As there are no comments, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt informal paper 2.

It was so decided.

Reports by Chairmen of Working Groups

The Chairman (*interpretation from Spanish*): As members know, Working Group I, on agenda item 4, on nuclear-weapon-free zones, and Working Group III on agenda item 6, conventional disarmament, both met twice last week.

I call on the Chairman of Working Group I, Mr. Abdelkader Mesdoua of Algeria, to brief the Commission on the work of his Working Group.

Mr. Mesdoua (Algeria), Chairman of Working Group I (*interpretation from French*): As members know, our Group last week began its general debate on agenda item 4, entitled "Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned". Many delegations participated in that very fruitful and interesting general debate, during which they put forward a number of points that could be of help in the Group's deliberations. A number of most useful and interesting documents were submitted by several delegations; I believe that these will be of great use to us in our work.

This week, on the basis of the Chairman's proposals, we shall begin work on a document to be completed by the end of this first year of our consideration of the item. It will include four parts: overview; scope; goals and principles; and recommendations. I have undertaken consultations with a number of interested delegations that, in plenary meeting, have agreed that such a document should be prepared. Later this morning the Working Group will begin a structured discussion on that proposed document. On the basis on the wishes of delegations, the document will be discussed part by part; it will become clear whether the proposal is to the liking of delegations. Like most other delegations, I remain optimistic about the fruitful outcome of our work.

The Chairman (*interpretation from Spanish*): I now call on the Chairman of Working Group III, Mr. Michael Hoey of Ireland.

Mr. Hoey (Ireland), Chairman of Working Group III: We have had two meetings of our Working Group: on Wednesday, 23 April, and Thursday, 24 April. These were very useful and were very detailed in the sense that we had a number of very interesting contributions from delegations, which really allowed us

97-85515 (E)

This record contains the original texts of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

to have a first exchange of views on what we might consider to be the eventual scope of the guidelines which we have been asked to consider over the next three years. Two very interesting working papers have been submitted, one by the delegation of Germany and the other by the delegation of South Africa. I am expecting a number of other papers in the course of this week.

I offered — and this was accepted by my colleagues in the Working Group — to prepare a Chairman's non-paper which would suggest a possible scope and framework for the future guidelines. I did this over the weekend, and I will be consulting with various delegations today. I hope to be able to submit this non-paper at tomorrow's meeting. We may not be able to have first reactions tomorrow, but obviously I will be open to hearing first reactions if people want to express them. If not, we can come back to this on Wednesday, in which case I would continue tomorrow to listen to comments that delegations have asked to make on the papers that have already been submitted.

I think it is fair to say that the atmosphere in the Working Group has been very constructive, and I am confident that this will continue for the rest of the session.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.